

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An isostatic press, comprising:
a pressure chamber for accommodating a pressure medium, the pressure chamber being enclosed by a force-absorbing body_{7i}

a prestressing ~~means~~device, provided around an outer envelope surface of the force-absorbing body, the force-absorbing body thereby being radially prestressed_{7j}; and

at least one tunnel_{7k}-like passage running essentially over the length of said outer envelope surface of the force-absorbing body, the tunnel_{7k}-like passage being defined by a groove in said outer envelope surface of the force-absorbing body and a portion of said prestressing ~~means~~device covering said groove, for conducting pressure medium to a point of detection if such medium has leaked out from the pressure chamber to the outer envelope surface of the force-absorbing body.

2. (Currently Amended) An isostatic press, comprising:

a cylindrical element comprising an inner surface defining a pressure treatment chamber for accommodating a pressure medium and an outer envelope surface₇;

a single prestressing ~~means—~~device provided around said outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element, for inducing a radial prestress in the cylindrical element₇; and

at least one tunnel₁-like passage running essentially along said outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element, the tunnel₁-like passage being defined by a groove in said outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element and a portion of said prestressing ~~means—~~device covering said groove, for conducting pressure medium to a point of detection if such medium has leaked out from the pressure chamber to the outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element.

3. (Original) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein said force absorbing body is a cylindrical wall of a pressure vessel.

4. (Original) An isostatic press as claimed in claim 2, wherein said cylindrical element is a force-absorbing cylindrical wall of a pressure vessel.

5. (Currently Amended) An isostatic press as claimed in claim 2, wherein said cylindrical element is a protective liner and said prestressing ~~means~~ device is a surrounding concentric force-absorbing cylindrical wall of a pressure vessel, wherein the cylindrical wall is shrunk on the outer envelope surface of the protective liner.

6. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein said prestressing ~~means~~ device is a ~~at least one of~~ at least one of wire-shaped ~~and~~ and band-shaped and is wound around said outer envelope surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein said prestressing ~~means~~ device is cylindrical and is shrunk on said outer envelope surface.

8. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in ~~any one of the claims 1-7~~ claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area of the tunnel-like passage is dimensioned to conduct a pressure medium flow, ~~i.e. volume per time unit,~~ essentially equal to or larger than the flow of pressure medium supplied into the pressure chamber by a pumping device.

9. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-7~~claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area of the tunnel-like passage is dimensioned to conduct a pressure medium flow, ~~i.e. volume per time unit,~~ lower than the flow of pressure medium supplied into the pressure chamber by a pumping device.

10. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-9~~claim 1, wherein said at least one tunnel-like passage runs in the form of a spiral around said outer envelope surface and essentially along the whole of its length.

11. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-10~~claim 1, wherein the press comprises at least two tunnel-like passages running essentially along said outer envelope surface, each tunnel-like passage being defined by a respective groove in said outer envelope surface and a portion of said prestressing ~~means~~device covering said groove.

12. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least two of said tunnel-like passages run in parallel with each other in the form of

spirals around said outer envelope surface and essentially along the whole of its length.

13. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11-12~~ claim 11, wherein at least one groove intersects at least another groove, thereby enabling pressure medium to flow from one tunnel-like passage to another tunnel-like passage.

14. (Original) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 13, wherein

at least one first groove runs in the form of a spiral inclined in one direction relative to the circumference of said outer envelope surface, and

at least one second groove runs in the form of a spiral inclined in the opposite direction relative to the circumference of said outer envelope surface, thereby intersecting said at least one first groove.

15. (Currently Amended) The isostatic press as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11-14~~ claim 11, wherein the groove ~~or grooves are~~ is dimensioned and arranged along said outer envelope surface in such manner that, when a crack has propagated through the wall and grown so that it opens into a

groove, the crack must not have reached ~~the so-called~~a critical size.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an isostatic press, comprising:

providing a cylindrical element comprising an inner surface defining a pressure treatment chamber for accommodating a pressure medium and an outer envelope surface~~;~~i

providing said outer envelope surface with at least one groove running essentially over the length of said outer envelope surface~~;~~i and

applying a single prestressing ~~means—device~~ on said outer envelope surface for inducing a compressive radial prestress in said cylindrical element and simultaneously creating at least one tunnel-like passage defined by said at least one groove and a portion of said prestressing ~~means—device~~ covering said at least one groove.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said cylindrical element is dimensioned to become a force-absorbing wall of a pressure vessel and wherein the prestressing ~~means—device~~ is at least one of wire-shaped ~~and/or~~ band-shaped, the method further comprising winding the

prestressing ~~means~~ device around and covering essentially the whole outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said cylindrical element is a protective liner and wherein said prestressing ~~means~~ device is dimensioned to become a cylindrical wall of a force-absorbing pressure vessel, the method further comprising shrinking said prestressing ~~means~~ device on the outer envelope surface of the protective liner.